

**NOTES FROM DATA ASSESSMENT TEAM  
CONFERENCE CALLS**

To: calfedda@water.ca.gov  
Subject: SUMMARY OF THE DAT CONFERENCE CALL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1999  
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The next DAT Conference Call will be Wednesday, November 24, from 10a - 12 noon.  
The number is 657-4111.

#### SUMMARY OF DAT CONFERENCE CALL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1999

Participants: Mark Pierce, Paul Hanna, Deborah McKee, Steve Foss,  
Heather MacIntyre, Michele Simpson, Sheila Greene,  
Alan Ng, Kate Le, Dave Robinson, John Renning,  
John Burke, Rick Sitts

#### CHINOOK SALMON MONITORING

##### SALMON MONITORING

###### Upper Sacramento River

GCID - Catch per day ranged from 0 to 13 per day last week.  
The rain on 11/7 & 8 did not result in a significant increase in catch. After the rain last week, the catch increased to 13 chinook on 11/13, but decreased the next day. Since the call, 3 coded wire tagged fish were caught on 11/17. They are likely the Coleman late-fall released 11/12.

###### Spring Run Tributaries

Mill Creek - 11 yearling chinook were caught in October.  
The last chinook was captured 10/30. No more chinook were caught throughout two storms last week.

Deer Creek - 61 yearling chinook were captured in October and early November. The last chinook was captured 11/4. No more chinook were caught throughout two storms last week.

Butte Creek - 500 yearling chinook were captured October through 11/08. The yearling catch was very low last week. The recent storm did not result in increased catch yet.

###### Lower Sacramento River

Upper Tisdale Weir - The trap has been operating daily since 10/1. No salmon have been caught.

Lower Tisdale Weir - Three yearling chinook were captured October through 11/08. The last chinook was captured 11/5.

Knights Landing - Four RSTs have been operating since 10/1. One yearling chinook was caught 11/3.

###### Delta

Lower Sacramento River Beach Seines - The first winter run size chinook was caught at Elkhorn Slough on 11/4.

Sacramento Trawl - The first yearling chinook of the season was caught 11/08. Prior to that the last chinook was caught in September.

Sacramento Area Beach Seines - No salmon have been caught.

Delta Beach Seines - No salmon have been caught.

Chipp's Island - 2 yearling size salmon, 135mm-167mm, were caught Monday, 11/15. Delta Smelt take was high again but 9 tows were completed on Monday.

Mossdale - Trawl started Monday, 10/18. No salmon have been caught.

SWP and CVP Salvage Facilities

No salmon were salvaged last week.

#### COLEMAN LATE FALL NOVEMBER RELEASE

~77,000 Coleman Late-Fall hatchery chinook were released 11/12/99. They serve as surrogates for spring-run yearlings in the Spring Run Protection Plan and b(2) implementation. They were released between several small storm events in early November. Many spring run yearlings have been caught in the spring run tributaries October through early November, although the numbers have been low recently. Only two yearling sized Chinook have been caught in the lower Sacramento, at Knight's Landing and Sacramento. There was some discussion regarding whether they would be representative surrogates if they were released too early. DAT concluded the conditions are appropriate to release the chinook. Based on previous year's data, most of the Coleman late-fall will stay in the upper Sacramento until a larger storm stimulates them to move downstream. By releasing them now, they will have an opportunity to acclimate to river conditions.

#### AFRP DELTA ACTION 8 DECEMBER EXPERIMENT

The Delta Action 8 Smolt Survival Experiment for December is scheduled to occur between December 1 and 10, depending on hydrologic conditions and indicators of in-river yearling chinook emigration. The DAT discussed what the indicators are and when the experiment would start if the indicators are not observed by 12/10. Mark Pierce will find out if there is flexibility to hold the experimental Coleman late fall hatchery smolts past 12/10. DAT members will discuss the indicators and actions at the next b(2) Implementation Team meeting, 11/22/99.

#### ELECTRONIC DATA REPORTING AND DISSEMINATION

Most field data is being transmitted electronically to the IEP/CVPIA Internet Database. Data from three indicator stations are not being transmitted to the Internet Database; Mill and Deer Creeks and Knight's Landing.

The USFWS in Stockton has a website for their Delta monitoring program that can be reached at  
<http://165.235.108.8/usfws/monitoring/report.asp>

Last year's data or data that is more than 90 days old can be viewed at <http://sarabande.water.ca.gov:8000/~bdt/db/>. If you are interested in a demonstration of the website, contact Karl Jacobs at 227-0435.

The Spring Run Home Page is available at the following web site.  
[http://www2.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/spring\\_run/](http://www2.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/spring_run/).

#### SPLITTAIL

A few splittail were salvaged last week. The 14 day running average at both facilities combined was 6

#### DELTA SMELT

No Delta Smelt were salvaged last week.

#### STEELHEAD

No steelhead were salvaged last week.

#### MITTEN CRABS

The mitten crab population at the CVP decreased again to about 100/day. Due to the low numbers, the "chain link" travelling screen was removed from the secondary channel on 11/4.

The USBR conducted experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of the mitten crab screens on removing crabs and the effect on fish salvage. The "chain link" screen was 90% effective at removing crabs whereas the "cable" screen was 85% effective. Results of the effect on fish will be available in several months.

At the SWP, the crab count decreased again to about 100/day. The grizzly traps were removed two weeks ago, and the K rails will be removed next week.

#### OPERATIONS

Delta Inflow is 13,000 to 14,000 cfs. Delta Outflow is 6,500 cfs. Combined Exports are 9,000 - 10,000 cfs and is varying due to excess inflow. The E/I ratio is 60% (3-day running average).

Shasta storage is near the bottom of the flood pool. Releases will increase with increased precipitation.

#### JOINT POINT OF DIVERSION IN NOVEMBER

The Joint Point Of Diversion (JPOD) was scheduled to begin Monday, 11/15. That would have occurred if the Delta had remained in balanced conditions. However the Delta has gone out of balance and will probably remain so for the remainder of the month. DWR has been using the capacity available at Banks for the SWP, and has not be able to offer

capacity for JPOD use. Forecasted South Delta water levels are low, which will also preclude JPOD pumping at Banks.

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